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Don't Feed Stored Grain Pests

Control of insect pests in stored grain can add millions of bushels to the supply that farmers move to market or feed to livestock, and will help this Nation meet its food and feed grain needs. Insects take 300 to 500 million bushels of grain after harvest each year. This loss comes directly from the farmers' pockets.

How these stored grain pests can be controlled is told in this step-by-step picture story, and in the brief outline of control methods contained on this page. More detailed information is available from local sources--from your State Agricultural College or your County Agricultural Agent--or you can get copies of these publications from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Hold field infestations of stored grain pests to a minimum. Field infestations are a particular problem in corn, rice, and sorghum grains growing in the South. They can be controlled by cleaning up old grain, feed, and sweepings around farm buildings. To keep insects from flying into nearby fields, stored grain should be fumigated before corn in the field silks or rice heads out. Varieties planted should be insect-resistant. If rice, corn, or sorghum grains are infested in the field, they should be dried promptly after harvest, (and corn is shelled), and fumigated immediately to kill the pests.

Provide weather-proof storage. Insects are attracted to, and breed quickly in, stored grain that becomes wet either from ground water or snow or rain. Tight bins are also essential to successful fumigation.

Rid farm buildings of stored grain pests. A good cleaning is not enough to remove infestations from used wooden bins. Inner surfaces should be sprayed with an insecticide that will control the pests living in the bin.

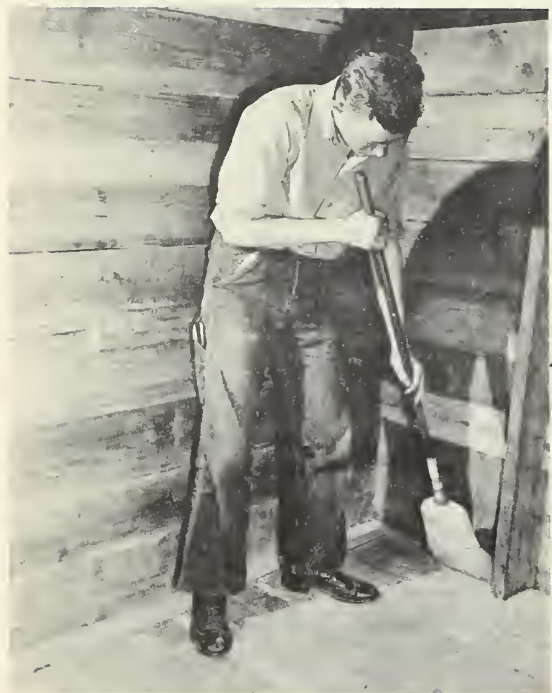
Bin dry grain that is free of dust and broken kernels. Grain in good condition--and with less than 12 percent moisture--will keep almost indefinitely, unless temperatures are abnormally high or sources of infestation are nearby.

Inspect stored grains often. Grain should be inspected at least once a month when daytime temperatures exceed 70 degrees. Grain samples can be shaken on a screen that will contain the grain but let any insects fall through. If weevils are present, or if grain is heating due to bran beetles, grain should be fumigated immediately.

Fumigation. Fumigants applied uniformly over the surface of grain stored in tight bins will settle through the grain and kill infesting insects. If the surface of the grain is caked, it can be broken up with a rake. The fumigant should be applied from outside the bin and the operator protected from poisonous fumes by wearing a full-face gas mask.



1. Feed rooms can be a source of infestation of newly harvested grain. Cleaning these rooms and fumigating other stored grain will reduce infestation in nearby fields and newly stored grain. N-9920



2. Sweeping up old grain is an important step in preparing a bin for newly harvested crops. N-10037



3. Spraying cleaned bins early in the season with an insecticide that will kill grain pests is a vital job in preparing bins for the new harvest. N-11970



4. A tight bin that keeps stored grain dry also helps to keep it free of infesting insects. N-11969



5. Cleaning shelled corn as it is moved into bins. Cleaning shelled corn of husks, dirt, and broken kernels before it goes into the bin makes it less vulnerable to insect attack. N-11783



6. Grains dried to a safe moisture content--below 12 percent for long time storage--offer little opportunity for a pest infestation to get started. N-11781



7. Farmer sampling grain, or screening grain sample. Periodic inspections allow you to find out about and stop pest infestations before they get a good start. N-11971



8. Fumigants are deadly to both insects and man. Protect yourself with proper apparel, and work from outside the bin. N-4064